

THE PACIFIC  
Commercial Advertiser

WALTER G. SMITH - - EDITOR

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## MISLEADING THE COMMISSION.

It is plain to those who have watched the remarkable proceedings before the Commission that a strong attempt is being made to use a legitimate inquiry as a means of doing anti-Republican politics in this Territory. The object of a local politician in raking up the events of 1893 can hardly be otherwise. Now 1893 marks a very sore spot in Hawaiian politics—one which progressive ideas lead away from. It was a crucial period, one in which the monarchy went down and the provisional government went up, and it naturally left a heritage of angry passion and prejudice, now happily growing dormant, which it is not wise from any standpoint, least of all from a political one, to revive. But it has often happened when a demagogue wished to inflame the Hawaiian voters, he went back to 1893 for material. In that way he could the most easily arouse them against the Americans and the white men and secure retrogressive politics in this Territory. We who have lived here long enough to know conditions and men in Hawaii can readily see through the scheme. It suits the professional demagogue who is trying to lead the commission astray, even as to figures, to have a Home Rule victory this fall. If that result can be reached he proposes to charge the failure of the Republican campaign against Governor Dole, in the hope that, when the Governor's commission expires, a strenuous carpet-bag Governor may be appointed in his stead. The demagogue in question is acquainted with one who wants the job; and incidentally, being but thirty-three years old, he wants the age limit of the Governorship reduced and has urged the Commission so to recommend.

The pretense for the resurrectionist policy urged upon the commission is that the Queen needs the archives of 1893 to make good her claim against the crown lands. Now if she has a valid claim, it is right that she should be recompensed for her loss; and if the United States deprived her of her lands, she should be given every fair chance to get them back. But this is not the place to investigate the conduct of the Federal government towards Hawaii; the place is Washington. If orders were sent here to use the Boston's marines in dethroning the Queen, surely there are no documents on file here to prove it. They must be looked for in the portfolio of the State Department which contains the correspondence of the Department with the then American minister; and in the portfolio of the Navy Department, where is to be found the official communications between the Secretary of the Navy and Captain Wiltse of U. S. S. Boston. What is on file here, certainly cannot be in point; but its production and publication would, by arousing old feuds, be of great advantage to the candidate who is trying to range the Hawaiians against the Republicans and to the demagogue who hopes to become a leader of the native party and who was its ally and adviser while he sat on the bench.

Furthermore, was it the intent of the Senate to have this crown land matter made an issue? Two resolutions were up, according to the advice which came here. One required the commission to look into the Queen's claim; but this form appears to have been dropped, for the final resolution, the one adopted, has no reference to the claim. Its form is as follows:

"Resolved, That the committee on Pacific Islands and Porto Rico be, and is hereby authorized and directed to investigate the general condition of the islands of Hawaii and the administration of the affairs thereof, and for the purposes aforesaid said committee, or a sub-committee thereof, appointed by the chairman, shall have power to send for persons and papers, to visit the islands, to administer oaths, to sit during the recess of Congress, and said committee shall report at the beginning of the next session of Congress the result of its investigations; the expenses of said investigation to be paid out of the contingent fund of the Senate."

Do not let us be misunderstood. The Advertiser does not wish the Queen to lose an acre or a nickel which may be due her. If the United States, believing her wronged, should choose to give her \$5,000,000 for a quit-claim deed, and call it square, Hawaii would greatly benefit by having that amount of money in the market. The cash would probably be loaned to great enterprises and become of benefit to all. But what we urge upon the Commission with all respect, is that it shall not revive our civil war politics. If it must go into the affairs of 1893 we hope it will see the wisdom of doing so at Washington; and if it thinks it requires documents from here and that public policy should permit it to get them, let it seal them and take them to Washington for review after our elections have passed. Or why not recognize the fact that a previous Senatorial Commission—the one of which Mr. Morgan was chairman—has gone through this whole matter and made its report. What is the use of threshing old straw? Why not use the wheat that the straw originally yielded and which is still in bags?

The ratification rally will have Colonel Fitch as its principal attraction. Wherever and in whatever company Colonel Fitch speaks he is always the orator of the day. Hawaiians who want to know why the Republican party is worth joining should make the point of hearing a man whose voice, for forty years, has been one of the most persuasive and convincing on the Western stump.

## OUR LABOR CONDITIONS.

The attack on the labor of the country, made by those who have political grievances against the employers of labor, assumes that the Orientals have been brought in to exclude American citizens from the fields. Now there are two large classes of such citizens here, the enfranchised Hawaiians and the white men, and from none of them, so far as we know, have the attacks proceeded. If the Senatorial Commission will inquire of Hawaiians and whites if they will, under any circumstances, do the hard work of the plantations, it will soon find that they will not. Should any exceptions appear the men can get work at once by applying at the planters' labor agency. The truth is that there are no exceptions. Our American citizens do not care to go on plantations and hence, if sugar is to be produced, some other class of people must be employed.

In looking about for substitutes the planters have by no means tied themselves up to Orientals. They imported thousands of Portuguese, but these enterprising people wanted homes and competencies and forthwith went about getting them. They could do better than work for farm wages. Germans were tried but the climate proved too severe for them. Galicians were brought in but they were like the Germans. Later the planters tried negroes and those they got from the South were the ones the southerners were most anxious to be rid of and they have been keeping our jail full ever since. An experiment was made with Porto Ricans and they have fallen a long way short of expectations. White families have been brought in from California to raise cane on the profit-sharing plan. At once they hired Asiatics to do the hard work, and after a little time got homesick and went back to the wheat fields and fruit orchards of the San Joaquin.

What were the planters to do? Give up sugar? They could hardly be expected to do that, having sixty millions invested. So they fell back on Asiatics, who were willing to do the work and able to do it well.

Unfortunately for the white trades, some of the Chinese preferred to be skilled laborers and went to the towns to work. Much skilled labor came in from Japan and competed. This was not the fault of the planters, for the same thing had happened on the coast. Over there it was the fault of the treaty-making power, the United States Senate, and over here the general trend of American treaties was followed. Had it not been followed, even unskilled labor could not have been had, especially from Japan, the main source of supply. Japan was proud and would accept no form of exclusion. During the life of the republic she sent shiploads of young men here, ostensibly at their own expense, certainly not at ours, who were billeted at "students" and "free laborers," the evident purpose being to flood the country and later to demand the same terms of suffrage granted by the republic to all who would take the qualified oath. Annexation came and stopped the suffrage conspiracy but it did not stop the coming of Japanese, whose right to enter here and engage in legitimate business was not denied by United States law.

Naturally the Asiatics, by underbidding white men, have acquired a standing in the trades. The Chinese did so in California before the enactment of the Geary law; and the Japanese are doing so now. There seems to be no way to prevent it while the present treaties remain in force. White men protest, but those who protest loudest are the ones who buy their clothing, groceries, furniture and what not at the Japanese stores. They follow the law of buying what they want in the cheapest market and are hardly in shape to criticize others from doing the same. Yet when all is said, the white population, especially the business classes, would be glad to see more whites and fewer Orientals; for it is white men who ought to be the best customers of what other white men have to sell, be the commodity newspapers, dry goods, boots and shoes, hats, groceries, restaurant provender, coal, hotel accommodations, race horses, drugs or pew-sittings in a church. But what are we going to do about it while the existing treaties stand? Upon that point Hawaii would greatly value the advice of the Senatorial Commission, the members of which are part of the treaty-making power. Shall we take up the sand-lot cry: "The Orientals must go!" or shall we await the pleasure of the government?

It is by no means certain that the fire in Kilauea will not soon reappear. Volcanoes have the intermittent habit as has often been shown on Hawaii and is being shown at Mont Pelee. No one need be surprised if some lively news from Kilauea comes to pass in a few days.

It is a pity that B. H. Wright is deprived, by the incident of custody, from telling the commission how badly things have been managed in this Territory by the "missionaries." He had strong views on that point.

Official salaries may be higher in Hawaii than they are where living is cheap; but people who try to get along on them are not worried over a proper investment of their surplus.

President McKinley died a year ago yesterday.

Children When Teething have more or less diarrhoea. This should be controlled and can be, by giving Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. Every household should have a bottle at hand. Get it today. It may save a life. Benson, Smith & Co., Ltd., wholesale agents, sell it.

CHINESE HIGH  
PRIEST IS DEADPang Fook's Remains Lie in  
State in the Joss  
House.

High Priest Pang Fook of the Tong Hing Society is dead and his remains are now lying in state in the joss house of the society just off Pauahi street near the river. For two weeks the body will remain before the altar of the joss god where the members and worshippers may obtain a last look at the face of the man who has conducted the heathen worship in Honolulu for many years.

The present joss house is merely an apology for the former commodious structure in which the high priest conducted the rites prior to the great Chinatown fire of January 20, 1900. Within fifty feet of the great towers of Kaumakapili church the first joss house stood. The building was not much when viewed from the exterior, but the interior was furnished with all the glittering trappings and paraphernalia incident to a well equipped joss house. In those days Pang Fook was in the heyday of his power and glory. The fire came and destroyed the temple and now a small cottage is used to contain what little machinery of worship the members have been able to collect.

Pang Fook's remains are in a heavy cloth-covered casket with a glass covering through which the dead priest's features can be seen. His head is covered with a red head dress and a yellow collar encircles his withered throat. A silver plate on the casket bears the words in English, "At Rest." The room in which the casket lies is a large square affair, in one end of which is a table on which are several silver candle sticks. At its base are bowls containing foodstuffs while in every part are punks which fill the air with a heavy odor. All about the casket are food stuffs and tapers. In the front yard a small flagstaff supports a large triangular red flag with a blue border inscribed with Chinese characters, the emblem of the society.

On September 28 the funeral of the high priest will take place and members of the society say it will be one of the largest and most elaborate ever seen in Honolulu.

## PUBLIC PLATFORM HELD ALL.

(Continued from Page 1.)

was of the opinion that the Republican party was the best. He advised his hearers to vote for Prince Cupid. Wilcox had promised much when he went to Congress, but after two years' service came back with nothing. He had left the Home Rule party because of Kalaokalani. The Home Rulers had a majority in both the Senate and House and yet all they did was to pass the lady dog law. Prince Cupid is well educated and is able to represent the Hawaiians in Washington. He does not speak falsely either but has the greatest kindness and consideration for all, and the speaker believed he was the right man to send to Congress. This closed the meeting the cheers being so loud and prolonged that further speaking was impossible.

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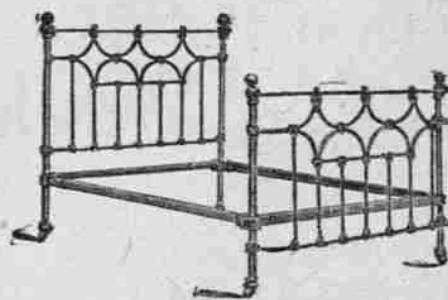
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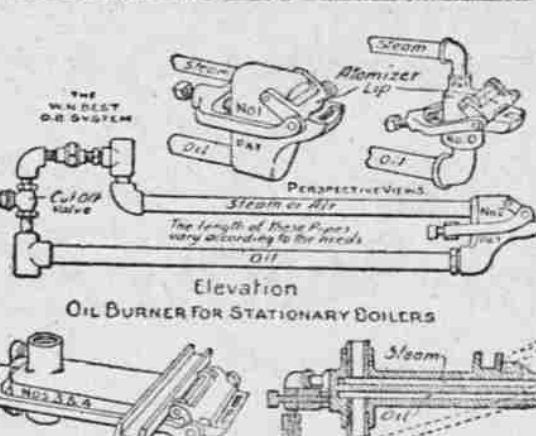
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